



**For Immediate Release
March 22, 2006**

**Contact: Vanessa Gulati
617-626-1119**

STATE ANNOUNCES 2006 HERITAGE TREE AND MASS RELEAF GRANTS

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington, today announced the awarding of 5 grants totaling \$19,000 in Heritage Tree and Mass ReLeaf grants.

Heritage Tree grants are awarded to projects that showcase the importance of mature trees in a healthy community landscape, and proper techniques for their care and maintenance. Mass ReLeaf grants continue the unique partnership between DCR and the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (MACUCC) to plant trees in highly urbanized and low-income communities using financial resources and volunteers provided by local churches, part of the MACUCC Evangelism, Mission and Justice Program.

Over the past five years, DCR has awarded \$135,000 in Heritage Tree grants to 54 communities and non-profit groups across the Commonwealth. Through its Mass ReLeaf grant program, founded in 1989, DCR has distributed more than \$1,325,000 in grant awards, with 12 of those, totaling \$36,000, awarded over the last three years with MACUCC funding.

“On behalf of Governor Mitt Romney, I’m happy to announce funding for these projects that involve innovative partnerships between municipalities and local citizen groups in the planning and management of our urban forests,” said Secretary Pritchard. “These partnerships strengthen community bonds while also providing for the long-term sustainability of our community forest resources.”

The Heritage Tree grants are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Mass ReLeaf Trust funds come from a variety of sources including private donors like the Massachusetts Electric Company, Calpine Energy Corporation and the Massachusetts Funeral Home Directors Association, as well as community organizations such as the MACUCC. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program administers both the Heritage Tree and Mass Releaf grant programs.

“These grants will provide funding for locally-led efforts to care for some of Massachusetts’ oldest and most spectacular trees,” said Commissioner Burrington. “These programs are helping to encourage community stewardship of our urban forests.”

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See list of individual grants attached.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation and Recreation**

**Urban and Community Forestry
Spring 2006 Heritage Tree and
United Church of Christ Partnership Mass ReLeaf Grants**

Heritage Tree: Total \$9,002

Hampshire Council of Governments: \$4,002

Project Description: This project proposes to prune and cable three large trees at the Northampton Court House. These trees were surveyed and care was recommended by DCR Forest Health Staff. The project also proposed to remove two trees.

Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center: \$5,000

Project Description: This project will provide certified arborist care to 41 large trees at the Boston Nature Center, including several large sugar maples and oaks. The project also leverages significant match dollars.

Mass ReLeaf: Total \$10,118

First Baptist Church of Worcester: \$3,168

Project Description: A Proposal to plant 20 trees around the perimeter of the Elm Park public elementary school in the Elm Park neighborhood of Worcester. The Social Action Committee from the church has work closely with the City of Worcester Forest and Parks Department to design the project and will provide volunteer support for planting and maintenance of the trees.

Old First Church of Springfield: \$1,950

Project Description: A proposal to plant 10 trees in the downtown business district of Springfield. This is a follow-up project to the planting that the church conducted in the same area in the fall of 2005. The church has formed a strong partnership with the Springfield Business Improvement District (SBID) and is planning future planting projects.

Greater Fall River Council of Churches: \$5,000

Project Description: A proposal to plant 27 trees around the parking lot of the Durfee High School of Fall River and three trees in the yard of the Fall River School Administration Building. This project follows a successful fall 2005 planting project also conducted by the Council of Churches.

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